(d) Even though arsenic concentration in Damodar river is well below the permissible limit, the following precautionary measures have been taken while mining :

1. Plantation is done on over burden to check the soil erosion.
2. No mining effluents are allowed to enter into the river directly.
3. Washery effluents are passed through several settling tanks before recycling and are not allowed to enter into the river.

Employees of NCL who died in harness

†3988. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of employees in the Northern Coalfields Ltd., Singrauli who had died in harness during the last three years;

(b) the number of those out of the above who died in accidents;

(c) the number of those deceased whose dependents have been provided with job and compensation, so far; and

(d) by when the dependents of all deceased would be provided with job and compensation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) As reported by Coal India Limited, total 168 employees died during the last three years.

(b) Out of above, 12 employees were killed in accidents.

(c) Total 102 dependents of deceased employees have been provided with employment in the NCL. So far as compensation is concerned, this is payable only in case of death of employees in accidents and as per provisions of Workman Compensation Act, amount of compensation in all the accidental death cases have been deposited with the office of Workman Compensation Commissioner wherefrom the amount is disbursed to the legal heir of the deceased employees. Further, provision exists in NCWA for monetary compensation to the dependent ladies. Accordingly, one dependent lady has been provided with monetary compensation instead of employment.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Details about compensation have been furnished in Answer to the part 'C' of the question above. The letters for employment to all eligible dependents of deceased employees will be issued on completion of the required formalities as per the following details :—

Dependents provided employment	102
Dependent lady paid compensation	1
Dependent minors kept in live roster	2
Letters of appointment issued	5
Dependents interviewed	25
Applications under examination	24
No eligible dependents	7
Claims of dependents disputed	2
TOTAL :	168

Setting up of regulator for coal sector

3989. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a regulator for coal sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (c) Keeping in view the recommendations of the Committee on Integrated Coal Policy (Chari Committee), the Central Government decided in Feb, 1997, among other things, to set up an Independent Body to perform the functions of monitoring and processing the proposals for exploration of coal and lignite in the country and allotment of new coal and lignite blocks to Indian Companies, in public and private sector, on the basis of competitive bidding. Proposal was conceived in the context of the amendment to the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 to allow non-captive coal mining by the private sector. Necessary action in the matter can be taken only after the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Bill, 2000 is enacted by the Parliament.